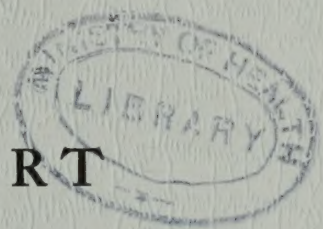


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CHESTERTON RURAL DISTRICT
in the
Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
Including Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
for
1955



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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area: Land	111,692 acres
Number of Parishes	52
Rateable Value:	£317,378*
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,200*
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books	12,366
Estimated mid-year Home Population	40,490
Census Population 1951	38,645

(* based on new Valuation Lists 1.4.56)

The district is agricultural and the main occupations are those associated with farming, fruit growing and jam making.

Birth Rate	15.4
(Corrected)	16.6

Death Rate	11.3
(Corrected)	9.9

Infant Mortality Rate	11.3
-----------------------	------

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Capt. F. Johnson, J.P.,

Vice-Chairman: Councillor F. Adams, J.P.

Councillors:

Austin, W. H.	Leach, W., J.P. (to May 1955)
Aves, L. H.	Ledgard, Rev. T. C.
Barker, R.	Macfarlane-Grieve, G. M., M.A.
Brown, Mrs. M.	Milton, Mrs. M. L.
Cairns, Mrs. R. M.	Newton, Maj.-Gen. T. C.
Cheason, Mrs. A. M.	Norman, C. A.
Claydon, Lt. Col. H. W.	Pease, M. S., M.A.
Cole, C. W. H.	Peel-Yates, Mrs. M.
Cooper, R. C.	Porteous, Mrs. D.
Cundell, A.	Robinson, T. B.
Currington, H. G.	Robinson, W. F.
Field, R. J.	Stroude, H. K.
Flinders, F. W.	Thulborn, R. W.
Francis, Col. J. C. W.	Waddelow, H. G.
Fry, H. F.	Walker, D. L.
Hayhow, A.	Walkling, E. J.
Hurrell, Mrs. M.	Watson, J. G.
Johnson, C. E. (from May 1955)	Wilkin, S. W., J.P.
Jopling, J., M.B.E.	Wordingham, S.L.C.
Law, W. H.	

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Chesterton Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This report is prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 dated November 23rd, 1955, and the information requested follows closely that set out in Circular 28/54, December 15th, 1954.

The health of the district remains good. Three events of interest occurred during the year regarding infectious disease; a prolonged measles epidemic, a small outbreak of virus encephalitis and the mass x-ray examination of 91% of the x-rayable population of a village; all are referred to in more detail in the text of the report.

The vital statistics show no remarkable changes, except for the stillbirth rate; the birth rate at 16.6 and the death rate at 9.9, per thousand population, both increased by 0.7 and 0.2 respectively over the previous year. The infant mortality rate was 11.3 per thousand live births as against 15.2 in the previous year. The stillbirth rate at 7.9 per thousand live and stillbirths is the lowest in the last 5 years. The source of the increase in population in the last 5 years (1951/55) comes almost equally from natural increase (excess of births over deaths) and immigration. The mid-year population in 1951 was 39,060 and this year it is 40,490, an increase of 1,430; 790 of which represents natural increase and 640 immigrants.

The completion of the slum clearance survey required by section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rent Act, 1954, has revealed 703 (5.8% of total houses) houses unfit for human habitation, and requiring demolition during the next five years. Close liaison between the public health and housing committees will be needed to formulate plans for putting into operation schemes to replace these unfit properties. In such schemes the housing needs of the elderly should be kept constantly in mind. Population projections indicate that the increase in the more elderly members of the community will continue for many years, perhaps to the end of the century. The need for accommodation suitable to the existing and expected population structure needs thoughtful and bold planning.

At the end of the year, immediately after the Christmas recess, new food and drugs legislation was received by the Council. This long awaited revision and consolidation of pre- and post-war legislation has now produced an instrument by means of which the food hygiene standards in this country can be raised. A very considerable amount of work will now be able to be done in the field of food hygiene, both on the structural side of premises and the education of both food handlers and the public. A good share of the responsibility for clean food is now placed squarely upon the shoulders of the individual food handler. In the past, good relations and co-operation have been enjoyed with the food trades, and since it is understood that the individual organisations are in full support of the legislation, it is anticipated that the raising of standards will be able to be undertaken smoothly. A major difficulty foreseen is the education of the individual; it is unfortunate that generally in the community there is a lack of understanding of the problems of food hygiene; for example, there is often great alarm about the handling of bread which is an aesthetic rather than a scientific matter, since bread has hardly ever been incriminated as a means of spreading disease. On the other hand, little is said about the fingering of food like brawn, ham and tongue, which will not receive further cooking. It is, I think, true to say that a community enjoys the food hygiene standards it deserves; if individuals maintain their custom at premises where food is served or handled unhygienically then they have only themselves to blame.

One of the more difficult medico-social problems today is that of the so-called "problem family". It was a welcome idea when in October the county welfare officer convened a meeting of the officers of all the sanitary authorities interested in this problem, and in this connection the recommendations of the Housing Management Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee in their sixth report (Unsatisfactory Tenants) are most pertinent. The possession by the Council of functional accommodation in which education in household management can be given in appropriate cases is worthy of consideration, bearing in mind that the County Council's temporary accommodation for the homeless is strictly for emergencies. It is realised that there exists a hardcore of problem families for which little can be done, but these cases are few; there are a number who respond to help and guidance and can be integrated into the community after a period of social education.

From the summary of inspections at the beginning of the chief sanitary inspector's report it will be seen that work in connection with drainage and sewerage (Histon, Impington, Milton, Gorton and Fulbourn), meat inspection and house inspection (including the slum clearance survey) accounted for approximately 70% of the inspections made during the year.

In the section dealing with the improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949, the distribution of the ownership of the properties improved is interesting, owner occupiers being in the majority.

Ministry sanction to proceed with the sewerage of the remainder of Great Shelford, Little Shelford and Stapleford was given during the year. Unfortunately, owing to considerable development in these parishes and the likelihood of further projects the original scheme was found to need amendment. Subsequently the occurrence of a further economic crisis has caused a retrenchment in Ministry sanction and at the time of writing this report it appears that only the remainder of Great Shelford will be sewered. Fortunately this will enable the very urgent problem of the sanitary conditions at Great Shelford School to be dealt with.

The possible advent in October of your district being included in a "special area" with regard to the production and sale of milk is welcomed as being a further step nearer the day when only pasteurized milk will be available to the consumers. It is only by efficient pasteurization that all the many infective agents that can thrive in milk and harm man can be eliminated. Once again the organisms causing tuberculosis were found in samples of milk, and *Brucella abortus* was also discovered; full details are given in the relevant section.

Once again it is my pleasure to record my thanks and those of the department to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee from whom we have enjoyed encouragement and support during the year.

Mr. Newman, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and his three colleagues have had a very full year's work, as this report demonstrates. To them I record my gratitude.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant,

P. A. TYSER, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1956.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations.)

Live Births							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	345	266	611
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	4	11
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	352	270	622
<hr/>									
Birth rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.4
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.08)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16.6
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.0

Stillbirths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	5
<hr/>									
Rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.9
Rate per thousand live and stillbirths (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23.1

Deaths							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	214	242	456
Death rate per thousand estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.3
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.88)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.9
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.7

Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.

							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 (6)	1	7 (6)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	6 (6)	1	7 (6)
<hr/>									

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets.)

Infant Mortality Rate. (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate. (England and Wales)	..	24.9
Neonatal Mortality Rate. (Infants under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	9.6
Legitimate Infant deaths per thousand legitimate live births	..	11.5
Illegitimate Infant deaths per thousand illegitimate live births	..	Nil
Maternal Deaths. (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	62
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	7
Respiratory	..	7
Non-Respiratory	..	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	21
Deaths from influenza	..	9
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
*Birth Rate	15.8	15.3	15.2	15.8	14.7	15.4
*Death Rate	10.9	12.3	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate	19.9	20.1	20.1	11.2	15.2	11.3
	(12)	(12)	(12)	(7)	(9)	(7)

* These rates are uncorrected. The figures in brackets are the numbers of infant deaths in each year.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS

<i>Ages</i>							<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	—	6
1 and under 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
2 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	4	17
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5	11
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	6
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	9	26
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	25	58
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	60	109
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	84	135	219
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	214	242	456

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health

"The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order, 1951" provides for the appointment of a medical officer of health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils.

Under the present arrangements this officer is also appointed deputy county and school medical officer to the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Sanitary Inspectors

Mr. E. B. Newman remains as Chief Sanitary Inspector with Mr. N. D. Addison and Mr. W. Cutts as additional inspectors. In July Mr. W. McLennan took up his duties as a further additional inspector.

Laboratory Facilities

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertakes bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals

Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Isolation Hospital, Cambridge. So far as general hospitals are concerned, Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, deals with the majority of cases from this area. The only hospitals in the area are the Mental Hospital at Fulbourn and that for the treatment of tuberculosis in connection with the Papworth Village Settlement.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1955

Measles

509 cases were notified. Figures of this magnitude have been noted in the epidemics of 1949 (493), 1951 (723), 1953 (478). This year's epidemic has been notable for its persistence, and for its several peaks. Beginning about the third week of the year notifications fluctuated between 3 and 31 per week until the seventeenth week. A recrudescence was observed from the twenty-first to the twenty-ninth week with another abrupt peak in the thirty-first week. About ten weeks later another sharp rise took place gradually falling off to the forty-eighth week. At the end of the year another rise occurred, and the beginning of 1956 shows a weekly incidence varying from 3 to 20 cases in the first thirteen weeks of the year.

Scarlet Fever

32 as against 93 cases were notified. 16 of the cases were connected with an outbreak at Histon Junior School.

Whooping Cough

There was virtually no change in the number of notified cases of this disease. In May the County Council inaugurated a scheme for whooping cough vaccination. It will be some time before the effects of this very welcome scheme can be evaluated.

Poliomyelitis

3 cases of paralytic poliomyelitis and 3 cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were notified in August and September. 2 of the paralytic cases were twins; 4 of the cases occurred in the same parish.

Food Poisoning

The majority of the cases notified were suspected of suffering from food poisoning, no cause or infective agent being discovered. 7 of the cases occurred amongst a group of R.A.F. Officers who had attended a dinner outside the County; no cause was found nor was an infective agent isolated.

Dysentery

Of the 6 cases of dysentery 2 occurred in one family and were contracted outside the County area. 1 case of infection was brought from another area. In the 3 cases infected locally no source was discovered.

Encephalitis

1 case of encephalitis was notified following a mumps infection.

A puzzling outbreak of what was finally diagnosed as *virus encephalitis* occurred in the Bourn area in the last trimester of the year. To begin with it was thought that cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were occurring, but the pathological findings, together with the epidemiological picture supported a contrary view which was upheld by the inability to demonstrate polio virus in the patients. In all about 12 cases occurred. The infection in one instance passed from the patient to his nurse, and thence to her husband. On the other hand contact with cases did not automatically mean illness nor were all members of a family affected; the cases were drawn from four families in the Bourn area. The possibility that a lymphochoriomeningitic (L.C.M.) virus was responsible was considered, and a rodent survey of the area was undertaken by the public health department. No L.C.M. virus was detected. The patients' family doctor, the consultant to the infectious diseases hospital, Cambridge, the Public Health Laboratory Service, together with a doctor from the University's Department of Pathology, and the medical officer of health, worked in close co-operation throughout.

Diphtheria

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS 1953

Under these Regulations a special provision is made to facilitate the investigation and control of outbreaks of 'Food Poisoning' (which includes typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever, or other salmonella infection, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning) in that (a) the existing provisions regarding the prevention of a person suffering from a food poisoning infection from continuing in or entering into an occupation connected with the preparation and handling of food or drink are now extended to include 'carriers' of food poisoning infections, (b) local authorities may authorise their medical officer of health to issue on their behalf notices where required to effect (a) immediately if he thinks it necessary and then report such action to his authority as soon as possible.

Such authority has been given to the medical officer of health but has not so far had occasion to be used.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS 1955

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Measles	Diphtheria	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1	—	12	2	—	7	—	21
1—2	2	33	—	—	64	—	99
3—4	6	43	—	2	96	—	147
5—9	22	76	1	—	302	—	401
10—14	1	5	—	1	29	—	36
15—24	1	1	—	—	6	—	8
25 and over	—	3	—	—	5	—	8
Totals	32	173	3	3	509	—	720
1954 Totals	93	175	—	1	15	—	284

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5	1	1	1	3	—	—	6
5—14	1	2	—	2	—	—	6
15—44	5	3	1	12	—	—	21
45—64	6	—	4	2	—	—	12
65 and over	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Totals	14	6	7	19	—	—	47
1954 Totals	20	8	7	13	3	2	53

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH Annual case incidence and deaths 1945—1955

DISEASE	YEARS											1955
	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	TOTAL	
<i>Measles</i>												
Cases	246	177	338	225	493	76	723	59	478	15	2,830	509
Deaths	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
<i>Whooping cough</i>												
Cases	54	19	90	80	84	81	171	131	115	175	1,000	173
Deaths	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Seventeen pulmonary cases were notified for the first time during the year, and six non-pulmonary. One respiratory case was discovered from scrutiny of the death returns. On balance at the end of the year the number of persons on the respiratory register increased by nine, and that on the non-respiratory had decreased by eleven.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1955

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non Respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of cases on register at commencement of year	215	152	31	42	246	194
2. Number of cases notified for first time during the year under regulations	7	10	4	2	11	12
3. Cases restored to register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to register otherwise than by notification under regulations						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	10	8	—	1	10	9
(b) From Death Returns	—	1	—	—	—	1
5. Number of cases removed from register	15	12	4	14	19	26
6. Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	217	159	31	31	248	190

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER 31.12.55

AGE GROUP	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		GRAND TOTAL
	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	<i>Resp.</i>	<i>Non Resp.</i>	
0—15	13	10	3	6	16	16	32
15—25	18	3	32	6	50	9	59
25—35	51	1	50	7	101	8	109
35—45	50	2	37	5	87	7	94
45—55	38	11	24	4	62	15	77
55—65	31	2	2	3	33	5	38
65 and over	16	2	11	—	27	2	29
TOTALS	217	31	159	31	376	62	438

MASS MINIATURE X-RAY SURVEYS

From time to time village surveys have been undertaken with disappointing results, 25-30% only of the x-rayable population attending. In the Rhondda Fach various methods have been tried in order to achieve as near 100% attendance as possible and it has been found that the house to house canvass technique without any elaborate publicity stunts yields as good a response as any. Your medical officer of health and the director of the mass radiography unit in Cambridgeshire, following discussions on the subject, resolved to apply the Rhondda Fach technique to a Cambridgeshire village and for various reasons the parish of Fulbourn was chosen, having a population of 1,430 and lying roughly seven miles east of Cambridge. Under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society and the Women's Voluntary Service a preliminary meeting was held in December 1955 in the village at which the project was described and discussed. The local representative of these two organisations played a very large and important part in the subsequent organisation and success of the venture.

A team of villagers was enrolled as canvassers and between the 16th and 23rd January 1956, a house-to-house canvass and census was undertaken. During the period January 23rd to February 3rd the canvassers, in co-operation with the organising secretary of the unit, arranged appointments. From February 6th to February 18th the survey was carried out. During the latter part of the survey, intensive canvassing and interviewing was done in the village amongst those who had either failed to keep an appointment or had not sought an appointment. The director of the unit undertook a large amount of this work herself.

Of the parish population, 125 were children aged five and under, and these were not x-rayed. 86 were either disabled or sick and could not attend, and 41 had been x-rayed before during the last six months. 1,086 of the parish population were x-rayed. It was calculated that 1,180 persons in the parish could have been x-rayed, thus 91.6% of the population was examined, a figure about triple that which has been obtained before in other villages. The number of cases detected by the survey compared accurately with the number previously notified and in addition four new cases were discovered.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

No action was necessary during the year under this section.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 50

During the year it was necessary to effect the burial of three persons where no other arrangements were being made.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of inspections carried out during 1955:—

TOTAL INSPECTIONS RECORDED	7,406
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General Sanitation

Miscellaneous visits re complaints, etc.	468
Visits re drainage or sewerage	2,804
Water supplies	698
Water samples taken	423
Factories Acts	141
Visits re verminous persons or property	30
Public cleansing visits	110
Shops Acts, etc.	281
Schools	131
Rag Flock Acts	Nil
Pet Shops	2

Inspection of Food and Food Premises

Visits re sampling (milk and other foods)	340
Visits to slaughterhouses	1,338
Butchers shops	66
Preserved Food Premises:—	
(1) Sausage Manufacturers	22
(2) Fried Fish Shops	7
Ice Cream Premises (Retailers)	61
Cafes and Restaurants <i>Restaurants</i>	91
Other Food Premises	140
Bakehouses	41
Retail Dairies	31
Licensed Premises (Public Houses, etc.)	128

Housing

Housing inspections (P.H.A. 1936)	79
Reinspections	32
Housing inspections (Housing Acts)	1,020
Reinspections	72
Moveable Dwellings	234

Infectious Diseases

Visits and enquiries	136
Disinfections	14

HOUSING

It is now possible to obtain an overall assessment of the housing progress and remaining needs of the area. The following statistics show briefly the post war progress which has been made:—

1. Total number of houses erected by the Council between 1920 and 1939 1,320

2. Post War Housing progress:—

		<i>Permanent</i>	<i>Non-Traditional</i>	<i>Prefabs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dwellings completed in	1946	18	—	5	23
"	1947	52	16	45	113
"	1948	77	10	—	87
"	1949	21	70	—	91
"	1950	115	—	—	115
"	1951	133	—	—	133
"	1952	106	—	—	106
"	1953	184	—	—	184
"	1954	229	70	—	299
"	1955	121	28	—	149
	Totals	1,056	194	50	1,300

These figures are exclusive of conversions into flats and conversion of huttred dwellings.

Total number of dwellings completed up to 31st March, 1956.

Prefabricated Bungalows	..	50
Bungalows	.. ..	156
Flats	.. ..	33
Swedish, Unity and Airey Houses		174
Hut Conversions	.. ..	225
Permanent Houses	.. ..	887
Total		1,525

In course of erection or contracts drawn up:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	64
Bungalows	.. ..	30
Total		94

3. Number of houses built by private enterprise during 1955:—

Permanent Houses	.. ..	198
Temporary	.. ..	Nil
Prefabs	.. ..	Nil
Conversions (units)	.. ..	2
Total		200

4. Summary of action taken under the Housing Acts during the year:—

Houses inspected	.. ..	1099
Reinspections made	.. ..	104
Demolition orders made	.. ..	53
Houses demolished	.. ..	38
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) accepted	.. ..	3
Undertakings (Section 11 (3)) cancelled	.. ..	9
Houses made fit	.. ..	34

Since the passing of the Housing Act, 1930, the following action has been taken:—

Demolition orders not yet complied with	50
Houses demolished	475
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	31
Houses subject to undertakings (Section 11 (3))	77
Houses (or parts) closed	6
Houses made fit by formal action	30
Houses made fit by informal action	922

NOTE:—These figures are totals up to 31st December, 1955.

5. Improvement Grants (Housing Act, 1949)

Since the introduction of the Act the following action has been taken (up to 31st March, 1956):—

Total applications for grants received	154
Total applications approved	146
Total applications disapproved	8
Number of dwellings involved	185
Total cost of approved work (not withdrawn)	£87,796 12 7
Average total cost per dwelling	£474 11 6
Total amount of grant involved	£42,530 9 6
Average amount of grant per dwelling	£229 17 11
Total payments made up to 31.3.56	£23,379 8 5

The approved schemes provided for the following:—

1. Remedying fundamental defects in the structure of the dwelling	47
2. Fitting larger windows to improve light and ventilation	45
3. Laying on internal water supply	53
4. Installing hot water system	170
5. Provision of water closet	144
6. Provision of bath	152
7. Provision of sink	71
8. Provision of new or improved drainage	152
9. Provision of gas or electric points	153
10. Installation of new heating appliances	94
11. Provision of solid fuel cooking appliances	88
12. Provision of new or improved food stores	63
13. Provision of fuel stores	42
14. Additional accommodation:	
(a) living room(s)	21
(b) bedroom(s)	18

It is interesting to note that the dwellings included in approved schemes were owned as follows:—

(a) Owner-occupiers	102
(b) Small property owners	37
(c) Large individual property owners (exceeding 10)	8
(d) Estates, property Companies, etc.	38

6. Requisitioning

At the 31st March, 1956, only 1 property remained on requisitioning compared with 56 in 1946.

7. Temporary Hutments

The position at 31st March, 1956, was as follows:—

Type and Parish	Total Originally Converted	Number Abandoned or Demolished	Still Occupied
Converted Huts (5 years)			
Fen Ditton	10	8	2
Fulbourn	2	2	Nil
Stapleford	11	11	Nil
Graveley	14	6	8
Longstanton	26	22	4
Cottenham	12	12	Nil
Bourn	110	89	21
Converted Huts (10 years)			
Waterbeach	11	11	Nil
Stow-cum-Quy	52	1	51
Unconverted Huts			
Waterbeach	1	1	Nil
Graveley	11	11	Nil
Conington	2	2	Nil
Bourn	22	22	Nil
Totals	284	198	86

Good progress continues with the elimination of these sub-standard dwellings. Of the 86 remaining 51 at Stow-cum-Quy will be retained until 1957 and the rest will be abandoned as alternative accommodation becomes available.

8. Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The following figures indicate the position at 31st December, 1955:—

Number of licences issued during the year for individual caravans	46
Number refused	Nil
Number of new site licences issued	2
Vehicles involved	8
Number of site licences refused	1
Total number of individual licences in force at 31st December, 1955	139
Total number of site licences in force at 31st December, 1955	18
Total vehicles involved	149
Total number of visits paid	234
Site improvements carried out	2

Although considerable provision has been made in the area for residential caravan sites (including 2 at Great Shelford for 58 caravans) and in spite of the improved housing position generally, a demand still exists for sites within easy reach of the light industry in Cambridge. It is anticipated that the demand will be met by private site development. No difficulty has been experienced during the year in connection with the existing licensed sites. The licensing of individual caravans creates a good deal of paper work to little effect.

The seasonal influx of caravan dwellers in the fruit picking areas presented no difficulty during the year and is now on a much reduced scale.

The Remaining Need

It will be seen that the Council has erected over 2,600 dwellings and has utilised some 225 hutments for temporary accommodation. A further 94 houses are in course of construction or contracts let and 200 private dwellings were erected during the year. What then is the remaining need for new houses to clear the existing list of applicants and to eliminate the unfit properties? A careful revision of the housing lists in November, 1955, revealed the following position:—

	<i>Total Applicants</i>	<i>Cases Considered Urgent</i>
Families in lodgings, etc.	261	141
Overcrowded	102	100
Sub-standard accommodation	194	179
Tied cottages (under notice, etc.)	124	33
Other reasons	186	70
Totals	867	523

The total shows a slight reduction on last year's figure of 982 applicants.

The Slum Clearance Survey required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was completed in February, 1956, and a brief summary of the position revealed is appended below:—

Total number of unfit houses in the area	703 (5.8% of total houses)
Number of houses on which action has already been taken	112
Number remaining to be dealt with	591
Number considered to be suitable for inclusion in clearance areas	21

It is significant to note that of a total of 703 unfit houses, 381 were occupied by single persons or childless couples. Obviously, therefore, smaller units of accommodation will be required when the future building programme is considered.

Although considerable progress has been made since the war the problem remaining to be dealt with is not inconsiderable. A continuing house building programme over several years is envisaged if the housing needs of the area are to be satisfied.

POST WAR HOUSING TABLE 1

PARISH ALLOCATION

(Houses under contract or work commenced 31.3.56)

Parish	Permanent Construction				Temp. Accom.	
	Allocated		Completed		Allocated	Completed
	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Houses	Bungalows and Flats	Huts and Prefabs etc.	Huts and Prefabs etc.
Barton	6	—	6	—	—	—
Bourn	40	12	40	12	110	110
Boxworth	4	—	4	—	—	—
Caxton	19	10	19	10	—	—
Comberton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Conington	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coton	50	3	50	3	—	—
Cottenham	76	8	76	8	22	22
Croxton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Elsworth	12	—	12	—	—	—
Eltisley	9	—	9	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	8	—	8	—	—	—
Fen Drayton	16	—	16	—	—	—
Fulbourn	16	—	16	—	10	10
Girton	59	10	59	10	—	—
Grantchester	8	—	8	—	—	—
Graveley	14	6	8	—	14	14
Harlton	7	—	7	—	—	—
Harston	58	10	58	10	—	—
Haslingfield	38	15	14	12	—	—
Histon	102	22	94	4	—	—
Horningsea	16	4	16	4	—	—
Impington	36	2	36	2	10	10
Knapwell	6	—	6	—	—	—
Landbeach	14	2	14	2	—	—
Lolworth	8	—	8	—	—	—
Longstanton	26	9	26	9	26	26
Madingley	8	—	8	—	—	—
Milton	28	—	28	—	—	—
Newton	4	—	4	—	—	—
Oakington	24	13	24	13	10	10
Over	22	5	16	5	—	—
Rampton	11	—	11	—	—	—
Great Shelford	144	42	144	42	10	10
Little Shelford	18	—	18	—	—	—
Stapleford	10	—	10	—	—	—
Stow-cum-Quy	18	3	—	—	52	52
Swavesey	26	6	26	6	—	—
Teversham	12	—	12	—	—	—
Toft	12	—	12	—	—	—
Waterbeach	45	16	45	16	11	11
Great Wilbraham	8	—	8	—	—	—
Little Wilbraham	18	6	16	6	—	—
Willingham	41	15	41	15	—	—
Totals	1,125	219	1,061	189	275	275

WATER SUPPLY

Since the last Report the mains extension at Six Mile Bottom has been completed but so far it has not been possible to provide a supply to the hamlet of Chittering which continues to be served by a static tank filled by the Council's vehicle. It is hoped to provide a mains supply in 1956 from Cottenham.

Otherwise the whole district has a mains supply available and, as will be seen from Table 2 the percentage of properties taking a supply is now 89.5%.

A direct labour scheme is available for connection, maintenance and waste detection.

Sufficiency of Supply

In spite of the abnormally dry summer no difficulty was experienced in meeting the demands on the various sources of supply. No doubt the bringing into use of the additional bore at Lordsbridge by the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board was of material assistance in this connection. Work of main laying has commenced on the scheme of the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water to take a bulk supply from Cambridge (passing through Longstanton and Willingham in this area).

In the case of the Council's works supplying the Parish of Over (less than 1,000 population) the yield from the well showed a serious drop towards the end of the year. This was successfully restored by perforating the lower courses of the brick lining.

Chlorination and Softening

With the exception of the Council's works at Harston all public supplies are chlorinated. The supply from the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board has been the subject of complaints due to hardness (450-490 parts per million) and the installation of softening plant at the Board's 3 pumping stations is contemplated as soon as the necessary consent can be obtained for the capital expenditure.

Willingham Water Company

The Council acquired this Company in April, 1955, and since the supply has been under strict supervision, no difficulty has arisen from a bacteriological point of view. Steps are in hand to acquire additional land around the well to afford greater protection and the installation of automatic chlorinating plant will be put in hand shortly. Work is proceeding with the installation of meters, etc., to bring the service into line with the remainder of the Council's undertakings.

Sampling

All public supplies are sampled at least monthly for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratories, and full chemical and bacteriological reports are made quarterly by the Public Analyst. Routine sampling is carried out throughout the whole distribution system in order to afford as wide a coverage as possible. A summary of the results is shown in Table 3.

The unsatisfactory samples from the public supplies were mainly due to minor contamination of taps and service pipes, etc., and those at Over were taken during investigation as a result of a breakdown of the chlorinating plant.

The 13 unsatisfactory samples from Fen Drayton were taken from a private supply serving the Land Settlement Estate. The source is from shallow gravel wells (untreated) and is not considered a satisfactory supply. Negotiations are in progress for an alternative supply from the Council's mains. In all other cases mains supplies were substituted for unsatisfactory wells unless the wells could be brought up to the required standard.

PIPED WATER SUPPLIES AT 31.3.56. TABLE 2.

PARISH	Population 1951 Census	Statutory Authority	No. of Dwellings (Rate Books) 31.3.56	No. of Dwellings taking Supply (Rated)	% of Dwellings at 31.3.56
Barton	528	C.R.D.C.	193	135	69.9
Bourn	1,053	C.R.D.C.	336	315	93.7
Boxworth	196	C.R.D.C.	71	68	95.7
Caldecote	396	C.R.D.C.	135	128	94.8
Caxton	375	C.R.D.C.	124	120	96.5
Childerley	22	C.R.D.C.	7	6	85.7
Comberton	597	C.R.D.C.	191	158	82.8
Conington	132	C.R.D.C.	41	39	95.1
Coton	519	C.W.W.	176	161	91.4
Cottenham	2,440	C.R.D.C.	910	882	96.9
Croxton	170	C.R.D.C.	64	59	92.2
Dry Drayton	405	C.R.D.C.	127	114	90.0
Elsworth	515	C.R.D.C.	159	150	94.3
Eltisley	276	C.R.D.C.	96	94	98.0
Fen Ditton	632	C.W.W.	195	141	72.3
Fen Drayton	483	C.R.D.C.	143	73	51.0
Fulbourn	2,413	C.W.W.	491	415	84.5
Girton	1,931	C.W.W.	754	683	90.5
Grantchester	493	C.W.W.	164	160	97.5
Graveley	218	C.R.D.C.	64	55	86.0
Hardwick	471	C.R.D.C.	156	121	77.5
Harlton	236	C.R.D.C.	81	65	80.2
Harston	938	C.R.D.C.	359	351	97.7
Haslingfield	1,142	C.R.D.C.	237	185	78.0
Hauxton	381	C.R.D.C.	125	120	96.0
Histon	2,555	C.W.W.	960	1,283	91.5
Horningsea	325	C.R.D.C.	124	110	88.6
Impington	1,301	C.W.W.	441	(with Histon)	91.5
Knapwell	109	C.R.D.C.	36	32	88.8
Landbeach	610	C.R.D.C.	203	163	80.3
Lolworth	86	C.R.D.C.	41	28	68.3
Longstanton	1,481	C.R.D.C.	185	172	93.0
Madingley	182	C.W.W.	66	62	93.9
Milton	738	C.W.W.	239	192	80.3
Newton	279	C.R.D.C.	88	69	78.4
Oakington	500	C.R.D.C.	195	188	96.4
Over	906	C.R.D.C.	346	307	82.9
Papworth Everard	1,205	C.R.D.C.	268	268	100.0
Papworth St. Agnes	88	C.R.D.C.	30	26	86.6
Rampton	221	C.R.D.C.	89	84	94.3
Shelford, Great	2,318	C.W.W.	986	954	96.8
Shelford, Little	658	C.W.W.	204	173	84.8
Stapleford	831	C.W.W.	344	286	80.2
Stow-cum-Quy	527	C.R.D.C.	160	138	86.2
Swavesey	927	C.R.D.C.	297	286	96.3
Teversham	571	C.W.W.	157	118	75.1
Toft	250	C.R.D.C.	82	73	89.0
Waterbeach	2,630	C.R.D.C.	509	409	80.1
Westwick	61	C.R.D.C.	14	14	100.0
Wilbraham, Great	435	C.W.W.	149	119	79.8
Wilbraham, Little	266	C.R.D.C.	127	109	85.7
Willingham	1,623	C.R.D.C.	627	614	97.9
Totals	38,645		12,366	11,075	89.5

C.R.D.C. Chesterton Rural District Council.

C.W.W. Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company.

WATER SAMPLING YEAR ENDING 31.12.55. TABLE 3.

Parish	Public Supplies		Private Supplies	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Barton	8	—	—	1
Bourn	7	—	—	1
Boxworth	4	—	—	—
Caldecote	4	1	—	5
Caxton	17	—	—	—
Childerley	4	—	—	—
Comberton	6	—	—	—
Conington	4	—	—	—
Coton	4	1	—	—
Cottenham	19	1	—	—
Croxton	3	—	—	—
Dry Drayton	3	—	—	—
Elsworth	3	—	—	—
Eltisley	5	—	—	—
Fen Ditton	4	1	—	—
Fen Drayton	—	—	24	13
Fulbourn	7	4	—	—
Girton	3	—	—	—
Grantchester	4	—	—	—
Graveley	14	—	—	1
Hardwick	3	—	—	—
Harlton	4	—	—	—
Harston	17	—	—	—
Haslingfield	11	—	—	1
Hauxton	6	1	1	—
Histon	3	—	—	—
Horningsea	3	—	—	—
Impington	1	—	—	—
Knapwell	4	—	—	—
Landbeach	1	—	—	—
Lolworth	4	—	—	—
Longstanton	2	—	1	—
Madingley	3	—	—	—
Milton	1	—	—	1
Newton	3	—	—	—
Oakington	4	—	—	—
Over	32	5	2	2
Papworth Everard	3	—	—	—
Papworth St. Agnes	2	—	—	—
Rampton	2	—	—	—
Shelford, Great	9	1	1	—
Shelford, Little	8	3	1	1
Stapleford	4	1	1	—
Stow-cum-Quy	11	—	1	1
Swavesey	22	—	—	—
Teversham	3	—	—	—
Toft	4	—	—	—
Waterbeach	1	—	3	2
Wilbraham, Great	5	—	—	—
Wilbraham, Little	8	—	—	—
Willingham	28	3	1	1
Totals	335	22	36	30

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT

Total number of visits made re water supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	698
Total samples taken	..	..	..	..	..	..	423
Samples reported fit:—							
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	335
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Samples reported unfit:—							
(a) Public supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
(b) Private wells, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Water supplies to houses improved as a result of action by the department (excluding mains extensions)	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

No significant changes have been made in the schedule of collections made in the area (set out in the 1954 Report). Weekly collections are made from 4,173 houses (33.7%), fortnightly from 2,144 houses (17.3%) and monthly from the remaining 6,049 houses (49%). The rate equivalent for 1956/7 is 10d. and is only maintained at this figure by virtue of a system of curb side collections made possible by the co-operation of householders.

The work is carried out with 2 16/18 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tipping vehicles (diesel engines), 1 Karrier 12 cu. yd. side loading vehicle and 1 12/15 cu. yd. moving floor vehicle. As soon as circumstances permit it is hoped to standardise on the larger diesel engined vehicles.

The number of houses in the area has shown a sharp increase in the last 2 or 3 years and since most of the development has been in those areas where a weekly collection is in operation the main difficulty has been to complete the schedules without increasing the number of vehicles and labour.

Disposal

All refuse from the area is disposed of by controlled tipping at five tips. The available space is diminishing rapidly and alternative sites are virtually non-existent. Some form of regional scheme for refuse disposal may become necessary in the not too distant future.

Collection of Salvage

The state of the market and the price offered for baled waste paper has not yet been sufficiently attractive for the separate collection of paper to be re-commenced. The amount of paper found in the domestic refuse is, however, excessive and creates some difficulty.

Statistics

Briefly the cost statements for the 12 months ending 31st March, 1956, reveal the following:—

Total mileage travelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41,894 miles
Cost of vehicles per mile (excluding loan charges)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.54 pence
Estimated tons of refuse removed and disposed of	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,226 tons
Estimated cost per ton (collection and disposal)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1 7 9½	
Estimated nett cost per ton (after deduction of income)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1 6 9¾	
Estimated number of clearances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	341,155
Average cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.8 pence
Estimated average mileage per ton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.7 miles
Estimated miles per gallon (petrol)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6.8 m.p.g.
Estimated miles per gallon (diesel)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.2 m.p.g.
Net annual cost per 1,000 dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	£775 14 2	
Net annual cost per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	..	£239 7 6½	

Cesspool Emptying

The department still operates 2 Karrier/Yorkshire 700 gallon cesspool emptiers for the casual clearance of private cesspools and the desludging of small sewage disposal works owned by the Council. Both are adapted for night soil collection if required.

Disposal of contents is effected by the seasonal use of agricultural land and the public sewers where possible. It is hoped to curtail the service in those areas where the new sewers are available and to devote more time to the work required by other departments on housing estate plants, village drains and catchpits, etc.

A summary of the work carried out during the year ending 31st March, 1956, is as follows:—

Actual mileage travelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,519 miles
Estimated cost per mile	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1/11d. per mile
Number of clearances made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,274
Estimated cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£2 18 1½
Estimated number of loads disposed of	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,869 loads
Estimated cost per load	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1 19 7½

Night Soil Collection

The Council undertakes the following weekly collections:—

Waterbeach (350 pails) by direct labour.

Grantchester (50 pails) by private contract.

In addition a scheme is in operation in conjunction with a private firm of contractors whereby a bucket clearance service is available throughout the district at a charge of 1/- per clearance.

The work carried out by the Council in the parish of Waterbeach during the year ending 31st March, 1956, was as follows:—

Total number of bucket clearances	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,940 clearances
Estimated cost per clearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.9 pence

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no public or privately owned baths or pools in the area although much bathing occurs in the River Cam above and below Cambridge. A sample of river water taken at Great Shelford Recreation Ground was reported by the Public Analyst to be unsafe for bathing purposes. The prevention of pollution is of course the responsibility of the Great Ouse River Board.

SHOPS ACTS

The following summary shows the action taken by the department during the year (excluding routine visits to food shops shown elsewhere):—

Total number of shops (all categories on Register)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	315
Inspections made	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38

Although the number of inspections actually made under Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 appears small it must be remembered that most shop premises are small family concerns and are frequently visited for other purposes—usually connected with food hygiene. Very few premises employ large staffs, and in these cases the provision of adequate sanitary accommodation, ventilation and temperature have been dealt with.

As a result of action taken during the year the following improvements were secured:—

Structural repairs or improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
New or improved fitting, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cleansed or redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Improved washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

VERMINOUS PERSONS OR PREMISES

Little action has been necessary during the year. The following is a summary:—

Visits and enquiries re verminous persons and premises	..	..	..	..	30
Premises treated for:—					
Bugs	..	..	..	..	4
Fleas	..	..	..	..	2
Cockroaches	..	..	..	..	1
Carpet Beetles	..	..	..	..	1

Facilities are made available by the United Cambridge Hospital for the disinfection of bedding and articles incapable of treatment on the spot. The services of the Council's Pest Officer are available in connection with verminous premises.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The department is responsible for the supervision of all new drainage, drainage alterations and repairs to existing properties. This work includes the supervision of all connections to the new sewers (apart from work in the highway). Close collaboration with the Surveyor is maintained and copies of all drainage plans submitted are passed to the department.

With new sewers available in Fulbourn, Girton, Histon, Impington, Milton, and Great Shelford, this work has occupied a high proportion of the Inspectors' time as evidenced by the following summary:—

Visits in connection with drainage (inspection and testing etc.)	..	..	..	2,804
House drains, new or repaired	..	..	..	391
Closet accommodation, new or repaired	..	..	..	107

The number of properties connected to the new sewers up to the 31st March, 1956, is as follows:—

Parish	Council Houses	Private Houses
Fulbourn	10	52
Girton	54	388
Histon	42	340
Impington	31	76
Milton	41	68
Great Shelford	267	293
Totals	445	1217

During the year, the remaining parts of Contracts 3 and 4 (parts of Girton and Histon) were completed but no work has been commenced on Contract 5 forming the remainder of Great Shelford and the parishes of Little Shelford and Stapleford. Although Ministerial approval was forthcoming in early 1955 so much development has taken place (or was projected) especially in the Stapleford area that the Consulting Engineer's scheme required substantial revision. It is hoped to be able to invite tenders for this work in 1956, the completion of which is considered to be of great urgency.

A small extension of approximately 300 yards of public sewer was made in Mingle Lane, Great Shelford, during the year to receive the drainage from part of a new estate under private development.

The scheme for the sewerage of Fulbourn (split into 4 Contracts) is proceeding well. 3 Contracts have been completed and the sewers are in use. Work is proceeding on Contract 4 and is due for completion at the end of 1956.

The scheme for Cottenham (2,440 population) has been re-submitted to the Minister and the village has been surveyed in detail preparatory to a public enquiry.

No new Council house sites are now developed unless adequate sewage disposal facilities are provided. Since the last report the temporary plant at St. Vincents Close, Girton (69 houses) has been abandoned and the estate connected to the new sewers. The 10 prefabs at Fulbourn (previously served by a common cesspool) have been connected to the public sewer as have the estate sewers at Hereward Close, Histon. A small plant has been constructed for the Council's new housing site at Fen Ditton (18 houses) and a new site at Stow-cum-Quy (34 houses) has been drained to an existing works.

Unfortunately no progress has been made with improvement schemes for sites at Dry Drayton, Conington and Newton where the cesspools give rise to constant nuisance. Progress is also very slow with the conversion of pail closets to water closets at Council houses already connected to the sewers.

RODENT DESTRUCTION

The Council employs a full time Pests Officer and an operator (attached to the department) for the enforcement of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. A free service is given to domestic properties and work on business or other premises is carried out on a contract or recovery basis. The staff is also available for the destruction of pests other than rats and mice such as wasps, hornets, bats, moles, etc., for which a charge is made. The cost to the Council after deduction of the grant from the Ministry is still less than a penny rate. Although the Council is statutorily responsible for ensuring the destruction of rats and mice on agricultural property, the majority of the work is carried out by the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee on a contract basis.

Poisoning of rats and mice is usually carried out with Warfarin and occasionally Zinc Phosphide or ANTU and effective control is secured.

The following Table No. 4 shows briefly a summary of the work carried out for the twelve months ending 31.3.56;—

RODENT DESTRUCTION

Year Ending 31.3.56

TABLE 4

Type of Property					
	Local Authority	Dwellings	Agricultural	Business & Industrial Premises etc.	Total
Approximate total number of properties in area	20	12,366	1,000	500	13,886
Properties inspected as a result of notification of infestation	—	260	—	21	281
Properties inspected without notification of infestation	20	7,321	347	232	7,920
Number of properties found to be infested with rats	<i>Major</i>	15	—	7	26
	<i>Minor</i>	1,432	11	17	1,472
Number of properties found to be infested with mice	<i>Major</i>	—	—	—	—
	<i>Minor</i>	32	—	5	37
Number of infested properties treated by the Council	16	1,479	—	29	1,524
Number of notices served under Section 4 (treatment)	—	—	1	—	1
Number of 'block control' schemes carried out	—	6	—	—	—

A summary of the results achieved during this period is as follows:—

Total number of rats recovered	3,851*
Total estimated killed	14,404
Number of wasps nests removed	4
Number of premises treated for:—	
Mice	208
Beetles	4
Flies	5
Ants	6
Moles	2
Other Vermin	2

* It will be appreciated that with the use of the slower acting poisons the number of rats picked up is small in relation to the total kill. No infestations of a major character were noted during the year.

FACTORIES

A summary of the work carried out by the department under the Factories Act is appended below:—

Number of factories with mechanical power	117
Number of factories without mechanical power	10
Total on register 31.12.55	127
Inspections recorded	141
Notification of outworkers received	8
Infected premises	Nil
Notices served	8

As a result of action taken during the year the following defects were revealed and remedied:—

Want of cleanliness	8
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	4
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	5

Having regard to pressure of other duties it has not been possible to devote as much time to these premises as is desirable. Nevertheless, all were visited at least once during the year. Most are small, employing few staff and no serious problems arise. The outworkers are all connected with the tailoring and glove making trades.

The department is not responsible for the administration of Sections 34-37 of the Factories Act, 1937. (Means of escape in case of fire.)

SCHOOLS

Whilst the responsibility of the department has been confined to school milk sampling and routine inspection of school canteens and kitchens the progress being made with the improvement of school premises is of considerable interest. Much has already been done as mentioned in the 1954 report and it is a pleasure to record that extensions and/or new sanitary offices and drainage at eight schools in the area are included in the 1956/7 programme. These should eliminate particularly the very unsatisfactory circumstances at present prevailing at Oakington and Milton.

The school at Great Shelford is rapidly proving inadequate for the recent increase in school population as a result of new development in the parish, and whilst the school managers are anxious to extend and modernise the school this cannot be done satisfactorily until the Council's sewer can be installed (Contract 5).

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Only one factory in the area is engaged on the manufacture of new upholstered furniture using the specified materials. This has been registered. No other action was deemed necessary during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Premises registered at 31.12.55	1
Number of visits recorded	2

The licence remaining in force is in respect of the sale of goldfish only. One licence has not been renewed and the trader concerned has claimed exemption as a breeder. The legislation is extremely weak on this point but it is hoped to arrange for him to separate his breeding and trading premises so that the latter can be licensed and subject to proper supervision. Objection has been raised to the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector accompanying the Sanitary Inspector on these visits.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Milk Supply

Having no jurisdiction over milk production on the farm, the department directs its efforts towards the sampling of milk in course of delivery to the consumer so as to detect any contamination or infection with harmful organisms. School milk supplies are sampled regularly on behalf of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Generally speaking the position from a public health point of view is improving steadily. Firstly the sale of loose milk has ceased and bottled milk substituted. Secondly designated milk—either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised—is almost universally available throughout the district, although one or two retailers are still selling ungraded milk. Fortunately there is every indication that this practice will cease when the district becomes a 'special area' (probably on 1st October, 1956), after which date all milk retailed must be from a T.T. herd bottled on the farm or have been subject to pasteurisation or sterilisation. This step is to be applauded since the production of ungraded milk receives scant supervision either from the veterinary or registration authorities.

The following figures (supplied by courtesy of the Cambridgeshire Agricultural Executive Committee) indicate the position in the area at 31st March, 1956:—

Number of wholesale producers in the area	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
Number of producer retailers	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Number of retail purveyors	..	..	..	..	..	..	25

Of a total of 144 registered producers in the area 88 produce Tuberculin Tested milk (60.4%) and approximately 75 herds (51.5%) are 'attested'.

The following is a summary of the year's work under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:—

Number of distributors with registered premises in the area	..	..	..	..	17
Number of distributors with premises outside the area	..	..	..	..	8
Visits paid to retail dairies	..	..	..	..	31
Licences issued to retail Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	20
Licences issued to retail Tuberculin Tested milk	..	..	..	..	9
Licences issued to retail T.T. Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	15
Licences issued to retail Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	3

Little purpose now seems to be served by the cumbersome system of licences required for retailing designated milks which in an area such as this, creates considerable paper work (and confusion) to little effect.

Milk Sampling

The following Table No. 5 shows a summary of the milk sampling carried out by the department during the year:—

MILK SAMPLING 1955

TABLE 5

Category	Bacteriological Examination			Biological Examination			
	Samples Taken 1	No. Passing Test 2	No. Failing 3	No. of Samples Submitted 4	Free from Infection 5	Positive T.B. 6	Brucella Abortus 7
ROUTINE SAMPLING							
Tuberculin Tested	2	2	—	16	14	2	—
Pasteurised	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ungraded	5	3	2	9	7	—	2
Totals	8	6	2	25	21	2	2
ADDITIONAL SAMPLING AFTER UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS	—	—	—	8	8	—	—
SCHOOL MILKS							
Tuberculin Tested	5	2	3	6	6	—	—
Pasteurised	127*	109	4	1	1	—	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	132	111	7	7	7	—	—
TOTAL OF ALL SAMPLES	140	117	9	40	36	2	2

* 14 samples (Pasteurised) where atmospheric shade temperature too high.

It is satisfactory to note that bottled Pasteurised milk is now almost universally available to schools and in the few instances where Tuberculin Tested milk is supplied samples are submitted for biological examination. No school milk infected with organisms of tuberculosis or *Brucella abortus* was found during the year; although it will be noted that 4 samples of Pasteurised milk and 3 out of 5 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk failed the prescribed tests. Suitable action was taken in each case.

Regular sampling of milk supplied by the few distributors in the area together with the routine sampling of all school milks enables a close watch to be kept on all supplies with particular reference to bacteriological standards and freedom from infection. Nevertheless, of 16 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk submitted for biological examination 2 were found to be infected with organisms of tuberculosis. In one case, the Ministry of Agriculture Veterinary Officers were able to identify the infected animal and arranged for it to be slaughtered. In the other case, clinical examination of the herd was less conclusive. One suspected ~~animal~~ ^{animal} was removed from the herd and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

Two samples from ungraded sources revealed evidence of *Brucella abortus*. In one instance the producer/retailer was persuaded to send all his milk for pasteurisation and to purchase bottled pasteurised milk for retail purposes. In the other, a larger herd, the owner has installed a small batch pasteurising plant for his own use. This is not licensed and consequently not under adequate supervision. However, subsequent sampling has proved the milk to be free of pathogenic organisms.

In general, the cleanliness and keeping quality of the milk sold in the area has given rise to very little complaint in spite of the difficult summer.

BAKEHOUSES

Number of bakehouses on Register (31.12.55)	18
Inspections recorded	41
Bakehouses redecorated	3
New drainage installed	1
New sanitary accommodation	1
Improved washing facilities	1

Of the 18 bakehouses in the district 8 are of comparatively recent construction and the remainder are in reasonable structural condition. This trade however has shown a marked deterioration in standards of cleanliness which is a source of concern. There is, of course, keen competition from the large multiple firms and the local industry is passing through a difficult period. Nevertheless substantial improvements are necessary to restore these premises to their proper condition.

PRESERVED FOOD PREMISES (Section 14 Food and Drugs Act, 1938)

Total number on Register 31.12.55	134	Visits paid ..	
Manufacture of Sausages	23		88
Fish Fryers	9		7
Sale only of ice cream	102		61

Registration of these premises is not effected unless and until they comply fully with the requirements of the Act including adequate hand washing facilities, etc., Sausage manufacture is under regular supervision during visits to butchers shops and the sale of ice cream is now confined to the products of no more than 3 larger manufacturers. All of it is pre-packed.

As a result of action during the year the following improvements have been recorded:—

Sausage Making Premises

Structural improvements	2
Redecoration	1

Fish Frying Premises

New equipment	1
Redecoration	1

Ice Cream Premises (Sales only)

Improved hand washing equipment	1
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There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area and no difficulty has arisen regarding the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 so far as retail premises are concerned. The following table shows the results of ice cream sampling during the year:—

Ice Cream Samples 1955

Total Number taken	24*
Samples in Category 1	22*
Samples in Category 2	2
Samples in Category 3	Nil
Samples in Category 4	Nil

* Including 2 iced lollies.

The samples are subjected to the prescribed methylene blue test for bacteriological cleanliness and the above results are highly satisfactory.

FOOD SHOPS, CAFES AND OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Recorded visits during 1955 were as follows:—

Butchers Shops	66
Cafes and Restaurants	91
Retail Dairies	31
Miscellaneous visits to food shops, etc.	109

Owing to pressure of work in other directions it has not been possible to devote as much time to the supervision of food premises as one would wish. No doubt, with the introduction of the new Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the associated Food Hygiene Regulations on 1st January, 1956, greater emphasis will be given to this work in the coming year.

Briefly the following premises are subject to inspection by the department:—

Cafes and Restaurants	18
Public Houses (Catering)	83
Clubs, etc.	3
Residential establishments	8
Factory Canteens	13
School Canteens	14

Apart from the school meals service and the factory canteens there are very few premises catering for large numbers. Good contact is maintained with the School Meals Officer and every effort is being made to concentrate the preparation of meals in a small number of modern up to date premises and to eliminate the less satisfactory kitchens.

Both public and management have become more food hygiene conscious in recent years which facilitates the task of the Inspectors. Factory canteens are now of a good standard and the only premises in need of improvement are one or two transport cafes on the main trunk roads. Most owners are willing to carry out considerable structural alterations but find it difficult today to raise the necessary capital. Nevertheless, one new transport cafe has been constructed to replace unsatisfactory premises and negotiations are in hand regarding another. Briefly, the improvements recorded during the year were as follows:—

New premises or structural improvements	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
New or improved hand washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Redecoration	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
New or improved equipment	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

LICENSED PREMISES

Progress continues to be made with the improvement and modernisation of these premises and the brewery companies are doing all they can to meet our requirements. Naturally the curtailment of capital expenditure is having its effect and the poor trade at some of the smaller houses is rendering the task more difficult. Of the 155 licensed premises recorded in 1946 only 147 now remain. Work has commenced on the erection of one new licensed house and plans have been approved in the case of another. Both are in substitution for unsatisfactory premises.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations will enable certain aspects such as glass washing facilities to be tackled even more vigorously.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year, together with the improvements recorded:—

Total number of licensed premises in area	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Number of visits recorded	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
Premises reconstructed or substantially improved	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
New or improved sanitary accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
New or improved drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
New or improved glass washing facilities	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Redecoration, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	7

MEAT INSPECTION

After 18 months of private slaughtering the trade has settled down to a steady throughput for local requirements with very little being slaughtered for consumption outside the area. Nine private slaughterhouses are licensed but the use of one has been almost discontinued. Occasional slaughtering also occurs at Fulbourn Mental Hospital for which an inspection service is provided by the department. It will be noted that 1,338 visits to slaughterhouses were necessary to ensure 100% inspection which has so far been maintained but fortunately little overtime is necessary. It is, however, anticipated that the future slaughtering at one premises will be increased to include a proportion for London. Increased inspection duties will then be necessary.

Although the existing slaughterhouses leave much to be desired no serious problem arose during the year and good co-operation exists with the traders concerned. The implementation of the Government's policy of 'moderate concentration' is still anxiously awaited.

Appended herewith is a summary of the animals slaughtered and inspected in the area during the year ending 31st December, 1955:—

TABLE 6
SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1955

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep Lambs
Animals killed and inspected	751	38	10	2,758	51	2,492
All Diseases except T.B.						
Whole carcasses and offal condemned	1	—	1	4	3	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	126	4	—	113	9	23
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	16.9	10.5	10.0	4.02	23.5	1.4
T.B. Only						
Whole carcasses and offal condemned	2	1	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	36	1	—	134	1	—
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	5.05	5.2	10.0	4.7	1.96	—
Number of organs or parts condemned—						
All Diseases						
Head	28½	—	—	85½	1	1
Lungs	28	1	—	15	1	6
Heart	1	—	—	7	1	4
Liver	128	4	—	99	1	18
Spleen	2	1	—	3	1	—
Diaphragm	4	1	—	—	—	—
Kidney	1	—	—	1	6	—
Stomach	—	—	—	2	—	—
Mesentery	3	1	—	64	—	—
Other organs	7	2	—	9	3	3
TOTAL	202½	10	—	285½	14	32
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned						6
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration						3
Generalised and total condemned						Nil

It will be noted that 6,400 animals were slaughtered during the year. The quality has been good and only 38 cows and 51 sows were included.

The percentage of carcasses affected with tuberculosis and other infections as indicated by the Table affords ample justification for the department's efforts to ensure 100% inspection.

6 cases of *Cisticercus bovis* were found during the year of which 3 were cold stored for the prescribed period and 3 were jointed in the presence of a Sanitary Inspector—the single cyst found being calcified and non viable.

Although, with the goodwill of the traders, adequate supervision is at present possible, a strengthening of the legislation regarding times of slaughtering would be of material benefit especially in a large rural area such as this.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933, Etc.

Licences to slaughter renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
New licences issued	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total on Register 31.12.55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33

Licences are issued for periods of 2 years and the requirements of the Acts were fully observed on all licensed premises in the area. In granting new licences advantage is taken of the opportunity afforded by the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, to specify the type of animals to be slaughtered—e.g. to limit the licence to pigs and sheep in the first instance. All butchers have been notified of the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954, and no infringement has been noted.

UN SOUND FOODSTUFFS

The summary of meat inspection for the year (reported elsewhere) indicates the amount of meat condemned in the slaughterhouses as unfit for human consumption.

Apart from this, the amount of foodstuffs condemned as unfit was relatively small—mostly tinned goods in a blown or damaged condition plus the somewhat unusual items listed upon which the advice of the department was sought.

The following is a summary:—

Tinned Goods

Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 tins
Milk or cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3 tins
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 tins
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7 tins

Miscellaneous

Flour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138 stones
Pig's Kidneys (Dutch)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 pounds
Lambs Livers (Imported)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 pounds
Apricot Pulp (Spanish)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	860 pounds
Beef (various)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	383 pounds

The flour was condemned due to the presence of minute particles of glass and the remainder of the goods for decomposition or tainting. The beef was mostly imported. Most of the affected tinned goods were of foreign origin.

All meat condemned in the slaughterhouses is stained and sent to a local firm for processing into fertilisers, etc. Very occasionally when the reason for condemnation permits, the meat is released for sale as Knacker's meat.

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